

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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May 12, 2006

Gene K. Fong  
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Federal Highway Administration  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Leslie T. Rogers  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
201 Mission Street, Suite 1650  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attention: Ms. Sue Kiser

Attention: Mr. Ray Sukys

Dear Ms. Kiser and Mr. Sukys:

With this letter, and pursuant to the authority delegated to me, I approve the following amendment of the Tulare County Association of Governments' (TCAG) 2004/05 - 2006/07 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP):

- | <u>No.</u> | <u>Description</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 17         | <b>Transit Element (Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5309 and 5311)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This amendment adds 14 new FTA transit projects under Section 5309 (Bus and Bus Facility Allocations) and Section 5311 (Rural and Small Urban Areas Assistance).</li><li>• Modifies the description for a Section 5311 grant project from two 18- passenger buses to two 16-passengers buses. The funding remains the same.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|            | <b>Local Element</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delays the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase for one Highway Bridge Program (HBP) project from Fiscal Year (FY) 2004/05 - 2005/06.</li><li>• Modifies funding for an HBP project, Bridge No. 46C0076, by reducing total construction costs by \$438,000, and splitting right-of-way costs between two separate years.</li><li>• Modifies funding for an HBP project, Bridge No. 46C00099, by increasing total costs by \$1,649,000. PE is also delayed from FY 2004/05 - FY 2005/06.</li><li>• Modifies funding for an Indian Reservation Roads project. Funding has been reduced from \$110,000 in prior year to \$10,000 in FY 2005/06.</li></ul> |

It should be noted that the amendment request as submitted by TCAG does not match the entries in California Transportation Improvement Program System (CTIPS) for two projects: (1.) TUL05-018 and, (2.) TUL05-020. In these instances, the correct funding amounts are shown in the narrative of the amendment request from TCAG, but not in the CTIPS entry. A technical correction to the CTIPS entries will be made in a future formal amendment.

I am also recommending that the Federal Highway Administration and FTA approve this FTIP Amendment No.17 for inclusion into California's 2004/05 - 2006/07 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Projects included in this FTIP, in fiscal years beyond the three-year cycle of the current FSTIP, are not approved as part of this FTIP amendment and are for information only. These projects are included and submitted by TCAG through CTIPS. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) concerns, if any, are reflected in the "Caltrans comment" section of the FTIP Project Data Entry screen in CTIPS project by project.

The updated programming has been found by TCAG to conform to applicable air quality regulations. The modifications are to projects that are either exempt from the requirement that conformity determination and/or regional emissions analysis be performed per 40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127 – Tables 2 and 3 - or the change does not reflect a change in the design concept and scope of the project or the conformity analysis years as assumed for the regional emissions analysis of the currently conforming Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Plan. Therefore, this FTIP amendment is consistent with the State Implementation Plan. The financial impacts of this amendment are compatible with anticipated revenues in the FSTIP Financial Plan and do not significantly affect the overall financial analysis.

In accordance with existing law, public involvement procedures are a part of the project selection process. TCAG prepared this FTIP amendment under that process permitting citizens, affected local agencies, other public agencies, and other interested parties reasonable opportunity for comment.

Please address any questions on this FSTIP approval request to Penny Gray, of my staff, at (916) 654-3521.

Sincerely,



ROSS A. CHITTENDEN

Chief

Division of Transportation Programming

Enclosures

c: Karina O'Connor - EPA Office of Air Planning (w/enclosure)  
Ted Smalley, Deputy Executive Director, TCAG  
Dennis Mills, TCAG  
Rachel Falsetti - Caltrans  
Penny Gray - Caltrans